

VOL XXXXVI No 4

AUGUST/ SEPTEMBER 2019

ASTON ROWANT, KINGSTON BLOUNT & CROWELL

PARISH NOTES



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| Children's Parties (daytime) | £40.00 (3-4 hours) |

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| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
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USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

| | |
|--|--------------|
| CAB Local office www.adviceguide.org.uk | 01844 214827 |
| Chinnor Village Centre | 01844 353733 |
| Church Tower, Aston Rowant: R Newton | 01844 352926 |
| Dial-a-ride (for people with mobility problems) | 01869 327048 |
| Highways Pothole Hotline | 0845 3101111 |
| Highways Street Light Hotline | 0800 317802 |
| Library-Chinnor | 01844 351721 |
| Oil Syndicate adam.bernstein@mac.com . | 01844 350440 |
| Oxon County Council www.oxfordshire.gov.uk | 01865 792422 |
| Police-Thame (Thames Valley) | 101 or 999 |
| Poor's Hillock Allotments: Rupert Wolstenholme Rupert.wolstenholme@btinternet.com | 07866 302697 |
| Porch: S Thompson | 01844 351334 |
| Porch: J Rooksby | 01844 352320 |
| Post office-Chinnor | 01844 351214 |
| Schools: | |
| Aston Rowant C of E School | 01844 351671 |
| Icknield Community College Watlington | 01491 612691 |
| Lord Williams School Thame | 01844 210510 |
| Mill Lane School Chinnor | 01844 352106 |
| St Andrew's C of E, Chinnor | 01844 351353 |
| SODC Main Customer Services | 01235 422422 |
| SODC Refuse/Recycling | 03000 610610 |
| SODC Planning | 01235 422600 |
| Reporting Fly-tipping | 03000 610610 |
| SODC Environmental Department | 01235 422403 |
| Village Hall Hire/Bookings: Andrea Tinson | 07391 139707 |

LOCAL CHURCH CONTACTS

Rector to the United Parish

To be appointed
The Rectory, Chinnor OX39 4DH
01844 354626

Assistant Curate

The Rev'd Dr. Jacky Barr, please contact via Church office

Parish Administrator

Tricia Prescott csarc@btinternet.com
Chinnor Church Office, OX39 4PG 01844 352472

Associate Clergy:

Aston Rowant

The Rev'd Des Foote 01844 355945
The Rev'd Dr. Brian Griffiths 01844 355953

Crowell

The Rev'd Maggie Thorne 01844 354626

Churchwardens

Aston Rowant: Richard Boarder 07795 681263, Jeremy Wilcock 01844 761119
Crowell: Maggie & Andy Warman 01844 351909

PCC Treasurer

Michael DeVal12 Oakley Road, Chinnor OX39 4HB 07807 967452

For arrangements for Baptism, Confirmation and Marriage please contact the Parish Administrator (see above).

Methodist Services – Station Road, Chinnor

LOCAL CHURCH SERVICES

Aston Rowant Church Services

First Sunday of every month – 10am Family Service
2nd, 3rd, 4th Sundays 10am – Holy Communion
3rd Sunday – Service of the Word with hymns and sermon
Fifth Sundays see notice board in Church porch or village notice board
1st Tuesday of every month 8am – Morning Prayers

Crowell Church Services

Crowell services will alternate during the vacancy. One month, Evening Prayer will be held on the first Sunday, and in the next month, the High Mass service will take place at 10am on the Second Sunday.

1st Sunday of the month 6pm – Evensong
2nd Sunday of the month 10am – Eucharist
3rd Saturday of the month – Soul Space at 5.30pm

PASTORAL LETTER

Dear Friends

It's August, the holiday season, when many of us take a break and if lucky enough go away on holiday. This is actually a fairly recent expectation as we have all become more affluent. The original break from school was to enable the children to help gather the harvest to ensure survival through the harsh winter.

This made me reflect on what Augusts had meant to me over the years and I realised that it was often a time of waiting and preparing. September was frequently the time of new beginnings. First starting school then changing schools, starting my first job, changing jobs, being ordained. Having children, this pattern was repeated and I see it again for my grandchildren. So August was frequently a transition month; a month to prepare for new beginnings with natural nervous excitement.

I was reminded of this as I joined the REinspired team leading sessions for the leavers of St Andrew's and Aston Rowant schools preparing them for the likely challenges that lay ahead of them as they grow into teenagers.

We explained that as Christians we believe that God has lots of ways to protect us and we based our explanation on that well-known letter of Paul to the Ephesians (v6:10) 'The armour of God'. Paul had looked at how the uniform of the soldiers gave them physical protection and did he have an equivalent for spiritual protection?

His thoughts are summarised as follows: -

God guiding our thinking and choosing, is our helmet

**Our faith in God is our shield against being led into wrong ways by others
peoples influence**

We can defend ourselves with the sword of faith when we feel attacked

Following God's commandments is our breastplate

The truth of being loved by God is our belt surrounding us

**Following God's direction for us is our feet shod with his gospel of peace and
hope.**

Whether you are going on holiday or staying at home I pray that this month you know God's protection surrounding you bringing refreshment, love, peace and hope so that you are prepared for whatever lies ahead.

Every blessing,

Rev Des Foote

UPDATE ON THE VACANCY FOR RECTOR

The ministry team and the church wardens met with the Area Dean (the Rev'd Simon Cronk) and the Parish Development Officer (the Rev'd Charles Chadwick). Bishop Colin is keen that the vacancy is filled as quickly as possible for our Parish, and so the following timetable has been proposed:

A parish wide gathering of information and pooling of ideas for the next steps in the parish took place on Saturday 13th July at St Andrew's, facilitated by the Rev'd Charles Chadwick. Bishop Colin will meet with the PCC to finalise the Parish profile on Tuesday 3rd September. The Post will be advertised from 13th September. Closing date for applications will be 1st October. Shortlisting of candidates will take place 3rd October. Interview day will be 21st October. This is a proposed timetable that we will try to stick to.

In order to find a balance so that we can keep regular services happening in all our churches, we are going to implement one change. At Crowell, the services will alternate during the vacancy. One month, Evening Prayer will be held on the first Sunday, and in the next month, the High Mass service will take place at 10am on the Second Sunday.

The Rev'd Dr. Jacky Barr

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LETTER FROM JOHN HOWELL MP

As I think of holidays I am sure many will be travelling abroad. With climate change high on our agenda the issue of CO₂ emissions from aviation is a hot topic. Some people avoid travelling by air but for others this is not realistic. Some people look at carbon offsetting and I know that others find it difficult to know what to do for the best. As with all issues around climate change we need to tackle it on all fronts. There is a need for action at a global level. Here I am pleased that Ministers are taking action to encourage the development and supply of lower carbon jet fuels. Amendments have been made to the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations Order (RTFO) to include the use of sustainable alternative fuels in aviation. Further to this, £20 million has been made available through the National Productivity Investment Fund to leverage private sector investment to help develop and commercialise alternative fuels.

This month the Committee on Climate Change published its Progress Report to Parliament. In it they welcome Parliament's decision to make 'net zero' law commenting that it is a positive step making carbon neutrality mainstream. The legislation has been brought forward by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and it puts the UK on track to become the first G7 country to legislate for net zero emissions. Other major economies are expected to follow suit. It is also good that young people will also have the chance to shape future climate policy through a Youth Steering Group which has been set up by Government and will be led by the British Youth Council. They will advise Government on priorities for environmental action and give a view on progress to date against existing commitments on climate, waste and recycling, and biodiversity loss. Of course tough targets do not, in themselves, reduce emissions. We need action plans to deliver the targets. Much needs to be done. I acknowledge that it is for Government to drive this forward and I agree entirely with the progress report that decisive cross-cutting action is needed.

Every step is progress and we should not be too quick to criticise. No should we feel overwhelmed by the challenge as I know some people do. Every action taken is a move in the right direction and we should not feel that our own actions are too small. I know that there are several communities in the constituency where a climate action group has been set up. I would welcome knowing more about these so that we can encourage one another and share ideas.

More generally, if you have an issue or concern relating to Parliament which you would like to discuss you can email me at howelljm@parliament.uk or write to me at the House of Commons (House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA) or my constituency office (PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD).

John Howell MP

July 2019

PARISH COUNCIL & LOCAL CONTACTS

Parish Website

www.astonrowant.org.uk

Parish Clerk

Tracy Lambourne
clerk@astonrowant.org.uk
01844 353989
07971039612

Parish Councillors:

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Chairman Peter Tinson | Kingston Blount | 01844 352817 |
| Councillor Matthew Day | Kingston Blount | 01844 351300 |
| Councillor Steven Sowerby | Kingston Blount | 01844 351392 |
| Councillor Trelawney Hill | Aston Rowant | 01844 353051 |
| Councillor Adam Bernstein | Aston Rowant | 07754 915216 |
| Councillor Matthew Priestley | Kingston Blount | 07976 373512 |
| Councillor John Wyatt | Aston Rowant | 07710 232349 |

District Councillors:

| | | |
|------------|--------------|--|
| Lynn Lloyd | 01844 354313 | lynn.lloyd@southoxon.gov.uk |
| Ian White | 01844 352085 | ian.white@southoxon.gov.uk |

County Councillor

Jeannette Matelot jeannette.matelot@oxfordshire.gov.uk

MP

John Howell 01491 612852 howelljm@parliament.uk

Police Community Support Office

tel: 101 ThameHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Village Hall Hire/Bookings

Andrea Tinson 07391 139707 bookings@kbvh.org

Play Area

Tracy Lambourne 01844 353989 clerk@astonrowant.org.uk

Aston Rowant Cricket Club Chairman

Simon Tremlin 07780 672552

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The June meeting included a presentation from representatives from Strutt and Parker on a proposed development in Kingston Blount. The Parish Council encourages potential developers to share their plans with the public at the Council meetings to understand and listen to parishioners' concerns. The Parish Council members cannot express a view on proposals but we do encourage developers to take parishioners' views into account before submitting an application. At the time of writing, no application has been submitted by Strutt and Parker.

We are aware that some equipment in the playground in Kingston Blount requires repair. We are undertaking some small scale remedial work in the immediate future and will commission larger works in the autumn once we receive the report from the annual inspection. We hope that this will extend the life of much of the equipment so that it can continue to be enjoyed by the children of the Parish.

With the summer now here many of us will be out and about enjoying the countryside around us and, with the schools now broken up for six weeks, children will be outside playing. Sadly such pleasures are sometimes marred by stepping in dog mess. I know that the vast majority of owners are responsible and clear up after their dogs. I acknowledge (and am grateful) that many owners will pick up mess that has been left by someone else's dog. But people shouldn't need to do that. Please, if you are walking your dog, particularly on the playing field, green or cricket ground, ensure that you clear up after your pet.

It was pleasing to see a good turn out for the Aston Rowant School Fete in July, held this year at the Cricket Club. Personally I thought the new venue worked well with plenty of space for the various stands and stalls and off-street parking. The amount of work that goes into events such as the Fete cannot be underestimated and we are fortunate that so many people are willing to work on a voluntary basis to support our community, whether it is to help run events or local amenities, or help out at the Church, School or Cricket Club. However, it is invariably the case that more hands are needed – if you are willing to help out, don't wait to be asked but put yourself forward and contact the relevant group! The more we can work together as a community, the greater the benefit to all.

The Parish Council is not meeting in August. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 11th September at Kingston Blount Village Hall and all parishioners are welcome to attend. In the meantime, I wish you all a relaxing summer.

Peter Tinson

Chairman – Aston Rowant Parish Council

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Parish Council meetings were held on Wednesday 12th of June and Wednesday 10th of July where the applications detailed below were discussed. At the time of writing, the next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 11th of September in Kingston Blount Village Hall.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

P19/S1339/LB - Take well in back garden to ground level and cap with toughened glass to make safe at Ferndale House, High Street, Kingston Blount -
NO OBJECTION.

P19/SS1551/HH - Single-story Rear Extension at Chiltern Cottage, The Green, Kingston Blount - NO OBJECTION.

P19/S1338/FUL - Woodway Farm, Aston Rowant - Variation of conditions amendment to planting scheme, amendment to planning application and erection of two agricultural buildings - NO OBJECTION.

P19/S1669/HH - New windows at 8 Crowell Road, Kingston Blount -
NO OBJECTION.

P19/S1978/DIS - Discharge of condition 4 - Tree Protection (Detailed) to application P19/S0052/HH Single and two storey extensions at Warren Farm Aston Hill near Aston Rowant - NO OBJECTION

P19/S2062/FUL - Formation of new access and driveway at Town Farm Cottage, Kingston Blount - STILL UNDER DISCUSSION.

P19/S1654/FUL - Demolition of part of the existing dwelling and the erection of a detached dwelling with parking and access, together with alterations to the existing access at Windrush, Chinnor Road Aston Rowant - NO OBJECTION.

P19/S0876/HH - Amendment (no. 1) for development work at the following location: Aston House Butts Way Aston Rowant - as supported by Arboricultural Information 2019-06-27 - NO OBJECTION.

P19/S0842/FUL - New replacement pavilion building, new replacement mower and tool store, new car park, relocation of existing 2 flagpoles, score box, cricket nets, and installation of two new electronic scoreboards. Removal of 4 trees, addition of new hedging and tree planting at Aston Rowant Cricket Club, Chinnor Road Aston Rowant - OBJECTION.

WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS:

None

PLANNING DECISIONS OF SODC:

P19/S0860/HH - New canopy porch at Meadow Wood, Pleck Lane, Kingston Blount
GRANTED

P19/S1119/HH - Construction of two storey front extension, plus changes to roofing and cladding at The Applegarth, Chinnor Road, Aston Rowant. GRANTED.

P19/S1383/HH - Single storey domestic garden room and store to replace existing timber garden store at Hillside Cottage Aston Hill near Aston Rowant. GRANTED.

P19/S1339/LB - Take well in back garden down to ground level and cap with toughened glass to make safe at Ferndale House, High Street, Kingston Blount.
GRANTED.

PLANNING DECISIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST MEETING:

P19/SS1551/HH – Single Story Rear Extension at Chiltern Cottage, The Green, Kingston Blount. GRANTED.

Please note that all Planning Applications for the Parish can be found on the Parish Council Website: <http://www.astonrowant.org.uk/Planning>

All past minutes of Aston Rowant Parish Council (Including the Annual Parish Meeting) can be found under: <http://www.astonrowant.org.uk/meetings.html>

Occasional updates concerning the Parish are added to the Parish Council's website and Facebook pages as well as the Kingston Blount/Aston Rowant (KBAR) Facebook page.

Tracy Lambourne,

Clerk to Aston Rowant Parish Council

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NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

It has been quiet on the NP front for about six months, pending the submission of the new Local Plan (2034 version) which finally happened on 29 March 2019. In the normal course of events, this would be followed by a formal examination of the Plan and its adoption as current and up-to-date planning policy on which we could reasonably base the Neighbourhood Plan.

This being South Oxfordshire, there is no such thing as a normal course of events, and, in May, the local elections threw a new spanner in the works. The balance of political power in the district shifted and with it came the possibility that the Local Plan would be withdrawn, amended, re-written or any combination of the above. That decision rests with the next meeting of the Full Council, albeit that SODC planning officers are advising members that they should “keep calm and carry on with the submitted document.”

The Aston Rowant Neighbourhood Plan Sub-Committee, at its meeting in July, resolved to proceed with the Pre-Submission publication of the ARNP in September, basing its housing policy on the premise that the submitted Local Plan, requiring no formal housing allocations in smaller villages, will survive the current test and anything else that is thrown at it. A draft NP will be put to officers at SODC in July/August, and, all being well, the six-week consultation will commence in September.

After that, the timetable is dictated by SODC and the Examiner appointed by the Council. We would hope to see the NP through its examination early in 2020, amended soon after in accordance with the Examiner’s recommendation and put to the local referendum in Spring 2020. Because of policy and political changes at SODC, this would, unfortunately, put us about 12 months behind our original timetable, and it still depends on a number of things that are outside our control – political decisions, local plan examination, government satisfaction with SODC’s housing targets and performance, etc. We are not obliged to wait for all this to happen, but the NP has to be in accordance with national and local policy, so the best we can hope for is to run the NP in parallel with the LP and trust that, for once, the goalposts stay where they are, frustrating though this is.

The important thing for residents will be to look out for the draft NP in September, attend the meetings that will accompany it and, hopefully, give your support.

Mark Thackeray

Chairman – Neighbourhood Plan Sub-Committee

PS – the Sub-Committee is now down to only seven members. While it may be a bit late to join in with the drafting of the NP, we would welcome volunteers to be involved in delivering leaflets and in making sure that the draft gets the full publicity and local participation. The next meeting is on 13 August, 7.30 in the Village Hall, Kingston Blount.

ASTON ROWANT SCHOOL HOUSE TRUST

The Aston Rowant School House Educational Trust was set up in 1992 when the former teacher's house, belonging to Aston Rowant Church of England Primary School, was sold. The money from the sale was invested to raise income which is available to assist with education.

The precise rules are that the Scheme allows the Trustees to apply the income:

- a) In or towards promoting the education of pupils attending the Aston Rowant Church of England Primary School.
- b) In or towards promoting the education (including social and physical training) of persons under the age of 25 years who have at any time attended the school or who are resident in the Parish of Aston Rowant.

Some residents in the parish may either have children or are themselves eligible to obtain a grant. To be considered you need to apply in writing to the Trustees who will consider applications at their bi-annual meetings in May and November. Each application will be considered on merit – there is no guarantee.

If you would like more information please contact:

Peter Lambert 01844 352617 or

Mary Williams 01844 353927.

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THE FOOTPATH & AMENITIES GROUP

Improving Footpaths & Bridleways in & out of the Parish

The Footpath and Amenities Group have plans to improve the Surface of the shaded section of the footpath from Aston Rowant to Kingston Blount. Part of this work will include discussions with the land owner to improve the drainage in the area as the path approaches the school. The second project will be improving the surface of the Church Lane extension filling in more potholes with a binding hardcore. Work is also continuing apace on the Permissive Path from Kingston Blount to Crowell. The grass surface has grown well, and the surface reinforcement materials are purchased, ready to be laid at the end of September. We are hoping that several Parishioners will offer their help to work with a group of Volunteers from the Chiltern Society, without whose support we could not have embarked on this project. Please contact Peter Hetherington or Steven Sowerby to discuss the detail and offer help.

Footpath and Amenities Group

TV LICENCES FOR THOSE OVER 75

From Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice:

The BBC is planning to start charging over-75s for their TV licences unless they receive Pension Credit. Pension Credit is a benefit for people on low incomes who have reached the state retirement age.

Currently, those aged 75 or older receive free TV licences which cover them and anyone else they live with. However, as from June 2020, over-75s will be means tested for the free licence. It is thought that more than three million people will no longer be eligible to receive it.

But if you can provide evidence that you get Pension Credit, you can continue to receive a free TV licence. Over a million people who qualify for Pension Credit aren't claiming it, the government says, so it's worth checking your eligibility.

Call the Pension Credit claim line on 0800 991 234 Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. to find out about your entitlement. Alternatively visit <https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit>

You'll need to quote your National Insurance number and be able to give details of your savings and pensions, as well as the account into which you want your Pension Credit paid.

If you live in a care home or sheltered housing you can get an Accommodation for Residential Care licence which costs £7.50. You only need this if you watch TV in your own separate accommodation.

If you need help understanding this change, telephone Citizens Advice Adviceline on 03 444 111 444 or come and see us in person. For locations of offices and opening hours visit <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale>

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Sadly, I can report no panther sightings since the last newsletter! Equally disappointing was a large stone partially buried at the Fiveways' sign-post, which I thought was a "pudding stone" – a medieval way-marker. However, on excavation, I found it to be a piece of farm concrete, which is now on the surface but no longer obstructing the entrance in the Winter. Maybe the pudding stone is still underground waiting to be found at this important historical crossroads?

On a positive note the wild flowers have been exceptional this year giving support to the view that we are winning – it does take a lot of time. There are only two months now, when there are no flowers at all. All of the flowers introduced are British natives and some are spreading really well, with the hope that in time they will spread outside Fiveways. The problem here, as in most of England, is the low level of fertiliser in the soil which promotes grass and nettles. However, currently we have vipers bugloss (purple, 2ft, biennial), ox-eyed daisies, red campion, valerian (assorted colours) bladderwort, greater knapweed, yellow toadflax (almost invasive at the lower end by the poplar), and fox and cubs (bright orange). These plants were sourced from a reputable supplier, or from seed and some have come from my garden. If anyone has a new wild flower or an interesting weed in their garden, perhaps they could donate them to us. If you would like to plant them yourself, please check with us first. For example, all the primroses were donated by one family.

There is a lot of established hogweed near the path which can cause skin problems, if exposed to the sap. We will try to encourage it to move back although most people do have it in their gardens! Hogweed is a mystery to me, as whilst there are warnings about this plant, others eat it or put the seed in bread. The greater hogweed is the more dangerous plant and it is controlled in the UK. It does have much higher levels of fluorocoumarins, which also should enable it to glow in the dark, if exposed to UV light. I have not checked – yet!

Whilst the path and seat will be cleared a bit for access, the area as a whole will not be strimmed, until the wild flower seed has set in August.

Some months ago, we removed three dead or dying large hawthorns; there are a few more dead ones which need removing at some point.

An early reminder that duck racing is Sunday 16th February 2020, 2 to 4pm.

Mike Eaton

NOTICEBOARD



What's going on in Kingston Blount, Aston Rowant & nearby

Soul Space at Crowell Church

Set aside a half hour pause in the journey of our busy days, to enjoy half an hour of silent reflection, including some music and readings or poems chosen by the leader. Soul Space takes place in the beautiful, little and very old church at Crowell from 5.30 to 6 pm on the 3rd Saturday of the month. All are welcome and parking is available in the adjacent car park.

Sydenham Choir Annual Concert

Sydenham Choir is holding its annual concert at 7pm on Saturday 7th September at St Mary's Church, Sydenham. They will be performing a wide selection of songs, skits and music. Tickets are £10 each, refreshments included.

To book contact Gilly Harrison on 07789 584252/gillylawther21@aol.com or Fiona Kermack on 01844 352990/fiona.patrick1@btinternet.com

They hope to see you for an evening of music and fun.

Babysitting & Dog Walking

Eliza Day (14) is available for babysitting and dog walking as well as any other jobs like feeding pets or watering plants this summer. Please text or call her on 07717 130970.

Silver Harmony

On Wednesday, 7th and Thursday 8th August, Chinnor Community Church, High Street, will host the second 'Holiday at Home' – Silver Harmony two-day event for those who are 55 years and over and want to have fun this summer. These days will be packed full of fun and activities (flower arranging, glass painting, dominoes/scrabble, various enjoyable and easy crafts, puzzles, quiet corner, sing-a-long, etc) for those who, for whatever reason, are unable to go off for their summer holidays, but will be staying at home. Chinnor Community Church invite those who would like to get out, meet new people, have some fun, to come and join us between 10.00am and 2.00pm (lunch included). Places are limited so please request a booking form via email chinnorcommunitychurch@gmail.com or phone 07974 442967 or via our website www.chinnor.org.uk. There is no charge for this event and transport (door to door) will be provided.

Family Service

An advanced notice that the Harvest Family Service will be held at 10am on the 6th October.



Aston Rowant School Fete

On behalf of Aston Rowant school PTA, I would like to thank everyone who helped at this year's fete and all who attended. It was the most successful fete we have ever had. A big thank you also to the Cricket Club for allowing us to use their facilities.

Karen Bennett PTA chair.

Many thanks,

Liz Funnell (Callaghan)

Grave Talk

Grave Talk is a café space to talk about death, dying and funerals – taking place at St Andrew's Church, Chinnor on 3rd, 10th & 17th September from 7.00 to 8.30pm. There will be tea & biscuits, there will be talk, there will be questions. The truth is, we are all going to die but nobody likes to talk about it. Grave Talk is a chance to talk about death and to think about your funeral, ask questions, air your thoughts. For people of all faiths and doubts. Please call to book your place.

Jacky Barr

07769 825305

Autumn Parish Walk

A Parish Walk will take place on Sunday 20th October leaving from the Crowell Village Car Park at 10am. Once again, the Parish Council are teaming up with Chiltern Conservation Board's Autumn Walking Festival and Thame and Wheatley Ramblers to lead a 6-mile circular walk from Crowell. This walk takes in Crowell, Kingston and Aston Woods returning through the respective villages. The beech woods will be showing their wonderful Autumn colours by then. There is one hill, which we will take slowly, and no stiles. Dogs are allowed, but on leads please. Our last festival walks have both attracted over 25 walkers from all over Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and outer London. Maybe we will extend our reach worldwide next! I can recommend eating at any of the nearby pubs after the walk: The Shepherds Crook, Crowell, The Lambert, Aston Rowant or the Leathern Bottle, Lewknor. You'll probably need to book a table (for 13.30) at the first two.

Peter Hetherington

07767 647714

Do you have anything you'd like to list in the Noticeboard section? The deadline for the October/November issue is 15th September. Please email sarahparishnotes@gmail.com.

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Firstly, congratulations to the England team on becoming World Champions, how good was it to see on free to air TV, roll on the Ashes.

As this is written we are halfway through the cricket season, as was expected this is a season of consolidation with the first three teams halfway up their respective leagues. The fourth team is fighting against relegation, hopefully they will be successful.

The major news from the club is off the field, as was announced at the parish council meeting, the club requested and has agreed with SODC to delay the decision date for the revised pavilion application until the end of Sept.

This is due to a number of factors, not least of which is that funding for projects of this nature has been reduced since the initial application was made. In addition, it is necessary for us to ensure we are providing all of our players and members with the best option with regard to the facilities which are on offer.

Parish notes is not the place to discuss the options, but it is one of the places to announce the review. We want to engage with the community, this has been the stated aim of the Chairman and the committee since the start of the year, and so will organise a series of meetings where we can revisit discuss the options.

In order to enable discussion it is intended for these meetings to be relatively small. Big meetings make it difficult to have conversations. Once options have been discussed and evaluated we will present to the Parish before submitting any plans.

Nothing has been decided, nothing is off the table, we still have approval to build a new pavillion. Whatever is decided it is unlikely that everyone will be satisfied, all options have some supporters and some objectors, but it is important that whatever is decided should have the broad support of both the club and the parish.

The only certain thing is that the facilities of the club must be improved, the pavillion and current dressing rooms are simply not fit for purpose and must be addressed.

We will publish the dates of the meetings at a later date, in the meantime can we re-emphasise that everyone is welcome at the club, please come and enjoy the cricket and the atmosphere.

Steven Sowerby

Homeshare Oxford carefully matches older people who are looking for help or companionship at home, with another person who needs affordable accommodation, and is willing to lend a hand.

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Each Homeshare match is individual and carefully agreed. It may include some cooking and light housework, help with computers and technology, maybe some shopping or gardening, spending time together over a meal or cup of tea as well as occasional trips out. The reassuring presence of another person in the house overnight is often an important factor for the Householder. A Homeshare match does not involve any personal care.

This is what people currently Homesharing have to say:

“I thought it was such a clever idea because, first of all, it is nice to have a little bit of company. Second, there were some things I couldn’t do in the house, things that were getting difficult, and the third thing was giving someone a lower price in rent. It really has been a tremendous success”. Householder



“I am sharing with a remarkable lady to whom I feel an immense gratitude for inviting me into her home, welcoming me into her family, and trusting me in her space. In return I hope that I am proactive, helpful, and compassionate – and enhance her life and home as she and her home have enhanced mine. I would recommend everyone to consider Homeshare as an alternative way of living.” Sharer

To find out more about Homeshare please take a look at our webpage www.homeshareoxford.org.uk and then email us at Homeshare@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk or call us on 01865 410670.

We are on facebook and Twitter too.



TESSA WYATT'S COUNTRYSIDE DIARY

17th July

Having just been thinking that there aren't many butterflies this year, I saw clouds of little gatekeepers, two painted ladies and a good half dozen assorted cabbage whites and brimstones on my way to the field this afternoon. So relieved!

15th July

The grass (can't call it a lawn) is covered in Catsear, which we've never had before and has turned the garden into a sea of yellow. John is no longer mowing the grass, he's mowing the catsear, which doesn't seem to mind the dry weather at all.

9th July

Sam is quite partial to morning glories. He eats them while I admire them! He only eats one or two, and only when they're open. Strange pony ...

8th July

John put a shallow saucer of sugar water out for the bees and all the wasps are using it! One was at the bar for about two minutes!

1st July

Extreme climate change can be averted by planting a billion hectares of trees, according to a controversial new study. We planted three in our very small garden, a drop in the ocean maybe, but it's the drops that make the ocean. Where there's a space, plant a tree in it!

21st June

Swallows are gathering materials for their nests. In order to encourage them to choose our stables, we pour water on the grass outside which runs down to make mud for them. Of course, they decided to nest in the stables further up on the yard, not wishing to share our barn with those common pigeons!

23rd June

Swifts are struggling as the places they can nest are disappearing. New buildings could all have "brick holes" which would allow them to nest again.

20th June

The hedgerows are changing again. The verges are full of pinky mauve willow herb and here and there startlingly blue wild geraniums which must be leftovers from old gardens, when Aston Rowant was much bigger than it is now. Mind out for the Hogweed, which isn't far off flowering, it can cause nasty burns! A lucky find yesterday was a large patch of pretty field scabious. Such a pretty shade of mauve with some flowers edged with a darker purple. So tempted to pick them, I had to shove my hands in my pockets.

16th June

Fairy Fluff (poplar seeds) caught in a willow-the-wisp which spiralled gently to the roadside to land, turning it winter white in June.



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RIDE AND STRIDE

Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust

The annual Ride and Stride is taking place on 14th September. I'm sure many of our readers appreciate and enjoy our rich heritage of the many and varied old church buildings in our County, whether or not they choose to use them. Just to maintain these is a great expense, which these days, the Church itself simply cannot provide. Much help is given by the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, a locally based charity that is also part of a wider national movement.

Their principal fund raising event is the annual Ride and Stride on the second Saturday in September, when Welcomers are asked to man their churches and others can walk, cycle or ride round a number of churches of their choice with their progress recorded by the welcomers. All these participants are asked to find sponsors for the number of churches they visit or the hours they spend in welcoming.

The day can be great fun for singles, groups or families and it is hoped many will want to take part. If you might be interested, please contact

Julian Knight 01844 351315 or jknight652@aol.com for more information and sponsorship forms etc.

HEATING OIL – Don't burn cash unnecessarily

Just a reminder that I (Adam Bernstein) run an oil syndicate for the area with the sole aim of saving members money on heating oil.

Despite having close to 100 members in the syndicate, it still surprises me how often I see tankers passing my door. Granted we all have differing needs and a variety of tank sizes, but if householders can synchronise with the process which runs in November, January/February (depending on the weather) and June, savings can follow.

The syndicate costs nothing to join or be a member of, carries no obligation to buy and once I've collected the demand householders pay directly for what is delivered.

The syndicate covers Aston Rowant, Chinnor Hill, Christmas Common, Crowell, Kingston Blount, Milton Common, Lewknor, Postcombe and Tetsworth – further if there's a need.

To illustrate the savings, for the last top up in June the syndicate rate was 45.5p/litre plus VAT from Watson. However, just buying 500 litres would have cost between 49.95p/litre plus VAT (Sweetfuels) and 54.5p/litre plus VAT (Barton). 58,000 litres saw a high of 47.3p/litre plus VAT – the Boilerjuice group rate... not quite a bargain for such a large order which, administratively, would have been a nightmare for me and all of you.

Further, a new member was on a direct debit for a regular top-up with a local firm. They were paying around 75p/litre plus VAT. Occasionally the delivery failed to be made. Even if you don't join the syndicate please don't take out a top-up plan from a single supplier; they have no incentive to give the best price.

To join the syndicate just email your full postal address, phone number and any special access requirements to adam.bernstein@mac.com. 01844 350440.



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GARDEN BONFIRES

What is Wrong with A Bonfire?

They can be a fire hazard, and can be a real health risk to sufferers of asthma, bronchitis, people with heart problems, the very young or old, due to the dangerous particles contained in bonfire smoke.

The Legal Position

Bonfires are not prohibited by any bylaws. Control of domestic bonfires largely relies on the statutory nuisance regime under section 80 & 82 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. This regime works by assessing the impact of an activity across a property boundary, where it can be demonstrated that a situation has a material adverse impact on the “ordinary physical comfort of human existence”. i.e. you are regularly affected by smoke in your house, or are unable to use your garden because of smoke. It is the impact that is assessed rather than the activity, bonfire, itself. It is unlikely that occasional bonfires would constitute a Statutory Nuisance, unless the impact was particularly severe.

What to Do

If you are concerned about bonfire smoke coming from a neighbour’s garden often the best way to deal with the problem is to go straight to the source. Consider talking to the person responsible for the bonfire smoke and point out the problem hopefully this will resolve it.

If a direct approach does not work you may wish to consider mediation. You can obtain details of the services in our area by calling Mediation UK on 01179046661, this maybe the answer. If the above informal action fails then you can take formal action.

A complaint can be made to South Oxfordshire District Council’s Environmental department, 01235 422403, they have a duty to investigate whether the smoke impact constitutes a statutory nuisance. If they visit or witness the bonfire smoke and are satisfied that a statutory nuisance exists, they must take immediate action, if it is intermittent they may ask you to keep a diary. They may try to resolve the problem informally, if this fails they must serve an abatement notice.

If a person on whom abatement notice has been served fails, without reasonable cause, to comply he or she will have committed an offence. For offences relating to domestic premises, the magistrate’s court may impose a fine of up to £5000 with a further fine of up to £500 each day on which the offence continues after conviction.

In regard to commercial premises, the maximum fine is £20,000.

If after all that the council considers those summary proceedings would not provide an adequate remedy it can seek an ASBO (Anti- Social Behaviour Order). You can also take private action if the Council will not by complaining to the magistrate’s court under section 82 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

The Waste Duty of Care under section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 covers the disposal of controlled waste i.e. builders or contractors waste. The duty of Care requires everyone who produces controlled waste as part of their business to dispose of it at registered waste facilities, or pass it to a person authorised to transport the waste. In other words builders, contractors, tree surgeons etc cannot have a bonfire on site.

What are the Alternatives?

Compost as much garden rubbish as possible. A properly built compost heap will be able to deal with most garden waste.

You can obtain garden waste recycling wheely bins from South Oxfordshire District Council, 01235 422422, they are emptied every two weeks and cost £29 per year.

To dispose of woody material, shredders and chippers are available to buy or hire.

If You Still Must Have a Fire

- * Think of your neighbours before lighting a bonfire.
- * Do not light a bonfire within an hour of dusk, as temperature inversion conditions will keep the smoke near the ground level.
- * Check that the conditions are not too windy.
- * Carry out the burning as quickly as possible.
- * Use dry material.
- * If your neighbours are in their garden and you think they will be affected don't have it.
- * If your neighbour's windows are open, call and tell them you are having a bonfire, so they can close them.
- * Do not add any household waste and do not leave a bonfire unattended.
- * Be aware of neighbour's wishes and try not to cause offence.

The above is for guidance only, for more information and clarification contact Environmental Health on 01235 422403 env.health@southandvale.gov.uk or go to www.defra.gov.uk "A Review of Bonfire Smoke Nuisance Controls"

Peter Gibbons

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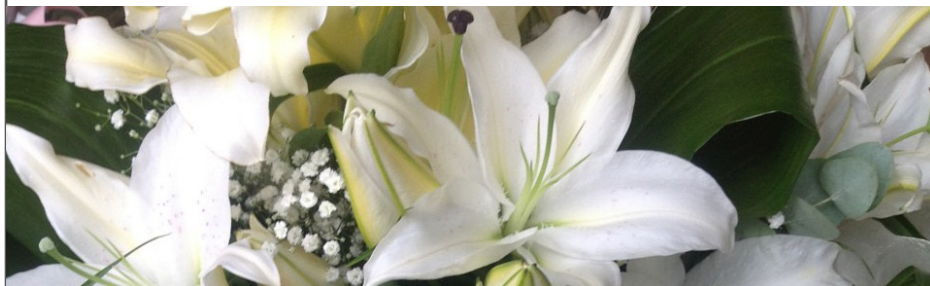
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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AUGUST

- 7-8 Silver Harmony, Chinnor Community Church (p.20)
- 13 Neighbourhood Plan Meeting (p.15)

SEPTEMBER

- 3 Grave Talk (p.21)
- 7 Sydenham Choir Annual Concert (p.20)
- 10 Grave Talk (p.21)
- 11 ARPC Meeting, KB Village Hall (p.12)
- 14 Ride and Stride (p.27)
- 15 Copy due in for October/November Parish Notes
- 17 Grave Talk (p.21)

OCTOBER

- 6 Harvest Family Service
- 20 Autumn Parish Walk

REGULAR DATES (please note many classes not held out of term-time)

MONDAYS

Kindergym Thame
Zumba 6.30pm KB Village Hall

TUESDAYS

Bell Ringing 7.30pm Aston Rowant

WEDNESDAYS

Kettlebell Abs 6.00pm KB Village Hall
Yoga 7.00pm KB Village Hall

THURSDAYS

StarBoddlers 11.00am Chinnor
Full Circle, Aston Rowant School
12-1pm (term-time)
Flowers 4 All (third Thursday) KBVH

FRIDAYS

Tiddlypeeps 9.30am Chinnor
Gentle Chair Based Exercises
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10.30am KBVH

SATURDAYS

Soul Space 5.30pm Crowell Church
(now only 3rd Saturday of month)

SUNDAYS (1st of month)

Aston Rowant Church Family
Friendly service 10.00am

Copy for the October/November issue is due on 15th September

Please email sarahparishnotes@gmail.com